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Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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E.O. 11652; N/A

TAGS: CA

SUBJECT: REPORT BY CONGRESSIONAL GROUP ON U.S.-CANADIAN RELATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE AGREED TO RE REPORT ON U.S.-CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS RELEASED BY 15 REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN ON APRIL 29. QUESTION WAS NOT RAISED AT DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 30.

2. COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL REPORT POUCHED EMBASSY. HASTY REVIEW INDICATES THAT ASIDE FROM UNFORTUNATE CHARACTERIZATIONS OF "DETERIORATING RELATIONS" AND "EXCHANGE OF BRICK-BATS" BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS IN REPORT'S INTRODUCTION, ITS REVIEW OF BILATERAL ISSUES IN ENERGY, TRADE, INVESTMENT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSBOUNDARY QUESTIONS IS GENERALLY FACTUAL AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION FIRM BUT UNSENSATIONAL.

3. CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE:

RELATIONS BY 15 REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN, MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WEDNESDAY GROUP, DESCRIBES BILATERAL RELATIONS AS UNCLASSIFIED

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DETERIORATING AND COMMENTS THAT "BRICK-BATS" RECENTLY HAVE

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BEEN FLYING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT?

ANSWER: WE ARE AWARE OF THE REPORT BUT HAVE NOT REVIEWED IT YET IN DETAIL, AND SO CANNOT REALLY COMMENT ON ITS CONTENTS. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE TWO POINTS, HOWEVER.

1. THE REPORT WAS PREPARED BY A GROUP OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN. WHATEVER IT SAYS, IT DOESN'T PURPORT TO BE A STATEMENT OF U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY AND SHOULDN'T BE MISCONSTRUED AS SUCH A STATEMENT.

2. I THINK THE REPORT REFLECTS THE CONCERN WE HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE OF IN CONGRESS AND IN THE U.S., AT ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES IN CANADA WITH REGARD TO U.S. INVESTMENT AND INFLUENCE THERE. THIS CONCERN IS REAL, BUT IT SHOULD NOT BE EQUATED WITH ANY DETERIORATION IN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THAT DIFFERENCES SHOULD EXIST BETWEEN US IS NATURAL, GIVEN OUR EXTRAORDINARY INTERACTION IN SO MANY WAYS. BUT RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS REMAIN EXCELLENT AND WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER IN ATTEMPTING TO DEAL WITH THESE DIFFERENCES IN WAY THAT BEST MEET THE LEGITIMATE NEEDS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. SISCO

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